

**Appropriations Committee
Friday, February 17, 2023**

**House Bill 6659: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFOR.**

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Warren Lundquist, I am a resident of Goshen CT, and an Information Technology Analyst in service of the Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP).

I offer the following testimony regarding the state budget:

A properly funded state budget is necessary to ensure that the services provided by myself and my fellow state employees are delivered effectively and efficiently. When we are given the resources and support we need, state employees do it better, faster, and for less than anyone else.

As a Senior Information Technology Analyst in service of the Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, I have 18 years of state service experience supporting the state's critical information technology systems and infrastructure. In my role supporting DESPP, I directly support all the critical technology infrastructure that the State's First Responders and Emergency Personnel rely on to do their jobs every day.

A few examples of the critical applications that run on the infrastructure that I support include:

- Computer Aided Dispatching - allows for State Trooper's to be efficiently and effectively dispatched to all public calls for emergency service, as well as allowing dispatchers to view the Trooper's location live for officer safety and receive live updates on the call for service.
- Trooper Report Writing - applications used by State Trooper's to write all of their reports, statements, maintain arrest records, check-in evidence, log witness information, etc.
- Evidence Storage - storage for all pictures and videos gathered at major crime scenes, fatal accidents, body worn cameras and in car mobile video, etc.
- License Plate Reader Technology - applications required for the License Plates Readers relied on by State Trooper's to effectively run many license plates at once in the area they are patrolling for situational awareness.
- All applications relied on by the State Forensic Lab, the State Fire Academy, and the State Police Training Academy. As well as the storage of critical documentation and procedures

relied on by Emergency Management Personnel when preparing and responding to natural disasters and other state emergencies.

Most of the technology infrastructure running these critical applications above, and many other important DESPP Applications, was purchased in FY 2012. This equipment had a recommended life span of 5-7 years. This equipment is well beyond its recommended lifespan now and hardware is starting to fail; I've had to beg for equipment from other agencies just to keep the 'lights running' on multiple occasions. We are also running dangerously low on available storage to keep up with the growing demands to capture and store digital evidence. I have urged DESPP Agency Management for the last few years that we must replace this technology, but I've been constantly met with roadblocks within the agency preventing us from using CEPF to replace this technology. Furthermore, DAS/BITS has promised a new infrastructure platform for these critical DESPP applications, but neither Agency seems to have funding to fund DESPP's use of this new platform initiative.

I am proud to work for the people of Connecticut and I take a lot of pride in the work that I do. I'm very honored to provide my service and IT expertise every day to an agency that credits itself to being the First and Finest in Law Enforcement. However, I'm very concerned we are quickly becoming the Last and Worst in terms of our underlying technologies that run the agency's most critical applications.

I ask you to please help direct additional funding towards investment in the technology that our first responders and emergency management personnel rely on to do their jobs every day. By investing in these technologies, we are ensuring that DESPP is ready to respond to all emergencies efficiently and effectively without technical obstacles; while providing the technology tools needed to keep our State's First Responders and the people of our great state safe.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Warren Lundquist
Goshen, CT